AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An image retrieval information storing apparatus for storing frame feature values in association with a plurality of frames of image data, comprising:

a calculating unit for calculating statistics of motion vector information related to said image data;

a frame feature value generating unit for generating a frame feature value which is numerical information representing quantity of a feature contained in a frame of said image data using the calculated statistics;
and

a frame feature value storing unit for storing said frame feature value in correlating form with the frame of said image data, the frame feature value storing unit being connected to said frame feature value generating unit.

Claims 2-14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) An image retrieving apparatus, comprising:

an index information generating unit for receiving a frame feature value which is numerical information representing quantity of a feature contained in a frame of image data, for determining a featured frame among said image data based on said frame feature value in accordance with a request for extracting a featured frame, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame,

a calculating unit for calculating said frame feature value by analyzing said image data including associated data for coding the image, and the frame feature value not being an original form in said image data;

an image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, for transmitting said request for extracting said featured frame to said index information generating unit, for receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, for receiving said image data from an external source, and for outputting a frame specified based on

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said index information, and

an index information changing unit for adaptively changing said index information by changing a setting of a threshold value during image retrieval.

16. (previously presented) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said image retrieval executing unit is connected to said index information generating unit, transmitting said request for extracting a featured frame to said index information generating unit, receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, and also receiving said image data and index information from an external source, and outputting a frame specified based on said index information received from said index information generating unit or said index information from said external source.

17. (previously presented) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said index information generating unit includes

a frame determining unit receiving said frame feature value and said request for extracting a featured frame, comparing said frame feature value and the threshold value in accordance with said request for extracting a featured frame, and determining said featured frame, and

an index generating unit connected to said frame determining unit and generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame.

18. (previously presented) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said index information generating unit includes

a frame determining unit receiving said frame feature value and said request for extracting a featured frame, comparing said frame feature value and the threshold value in accordance with said request for extracting a featured frame, and determining said featured frame, and

an index generating unit connected to said frame determining unit and generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame.

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Clams 19-26 (cancelled).

27. (previously presented): The image retrieval information storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a coding information reading unit for reading motion vector information from said image data which is coded; and

said frame feature value generating unit generates said frame feature value based on said motion vector information.

Claims 28-36 (canceled).

37. (currently amended) A method of associating frame feature values with a plurality of frames of image data, comprising the steps of:

calculating statistics of motion vector information related to said image data; ~~and~~

generating a frame feature value comprising numerical information representing a quantity of a feature contained in a frame of said image data using the calculated statistics; and

<u>storing the frame feature value in correlating form with said frame of image data</u>.

Claim 38 (cancelled).